



July 22, 2015

Commissioner Terry Holliday, Ph.D.
Kentucky Youth Bullying Prevention Task Force
Office of the Commissioner of Education
500 Mero Street, 1st Floor, CPT
Frankfort, KY 40601

Commissioner Holliday,

I am aware that the Bullying Prevention Task Force is researching existing laws and policies and collecting training and resource materials to be able to provide a report and recommendations to the Governor on how to address bullying in our schools. I want to share with you some information about a program through Special Olympics called Project Unify (soon to be called Unified Strategy for Schools and Youth). Project Unify strategies focus on creating and sustaining a positive school climate that values and manifest appropriate and effective engagements leading to inclusion, acceptance, respect and human dignity. When implemented in schools, Project Unify helps bring about much needed change in our educational system for promoting the social inclusion of all youth (including those with intellectual disabilities). We began introducing the program to schools here in Kentucky about 3 years ago and I'm excited to tell you that we currently have just over 50 schools involved with some level of Project Unify.

It is also important for you to know that this program has the full support and endorsement of the U.S. Department of Education. I've included a few documents from our Project Unify Toolkit that addresses school climate and bullying prevention.

Thank you for your work and dedication on this important issue. Special Olympics Kentucky stands ready to be a partner with the Commonwealth of Kentucky to address bullying in our schools.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have and I'm happy to share more information with you, including the recently developed Project Unify Toolkit. Please feel free to share this letter and information with all members of the Task Force.

Thank you for your time – I look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trish Mazzoni".

Trish Mazzoni
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